



The Legacy of Living River Grows



At Living River's Fall Open-Camp Day on Oct. 22, the Tom Winter Swimmig and Fishing Pier and The Quillen Family Canoe Dock were dedicated. Living River also received a major gift from the Shades Valley congregation. Members from all over the presbytery gathered to celebrate, fellowship, and spend time on Living River's sacred ground.

A reflection from John Liddle, elder at Southminster, "When you hear the words camp, what comes to mind? New experiences of enjoying creation such as hiking, swimming in lakes, rivers, the gulf, and pools; softball and serious volleyball games; frisbee golf tournaments; sleeping in tents and hogans; singing around campfires and roasting marshmallows. Bible study and vesper services that expand our worship experience of God. Playing, studying, and praying together create lifelong memories and friendships.

But what about adults? After all, camp offers experiences for all ages. How do we accommodate adults who have different needs and wants when it comes to "experiencing camp"? Recently the decision was made by the congregation of Shades Valley Presbyterian Church to sell their building and property. The money received from the sale provided an opportunity to fund various financial needs of organizations with whom the church had longtime relationships such as Living River.

At the Living River Open-Camp Day members of the committee from Shades Valley tasked with distributing funds from the property sale presented to Jenny Thagard a check that will cover the renovation of the Shades Valley/Terry Newland Lodge, a building suited to the needs of adult conference goers. May God continue to bless the ministry of Living River: A Retreat on the Cahaba as youth and adults enjoy this holy ground."

Environmental Relationships are Growing- Living River Staff with Cahaba Riverkeeper, Cahaba River Society, and The University of West Alabama Cahaba Biodiversity Center



Two Ways to Support Living River with Holiday Shopping

Art and Craft Sale

Over 50 pieces of pottery, original art pieces by local artists, some of whom you may know including freedom rider and pastor Rev. Clyde Carter, prints by Sanctified Art, craft pieces by women at First Light, and various second-hand pieces. You will find a wide variety of art and crafts at Living River's Art and Craft Sale Fundraiser!

Pieces can be found and bought **online over the weekend of Nov. 18-20** or **in person at Second Presbyterian on Saturday, Nov. 19, 9-1 pm**. Please spread the word!

Living River Sweatshirts

From **Nov. 21st through Dec. 5th**, Living River will sell Comfort Colors Living River sweatshirts online that will be shipped directly to you. These will make great Christmas gifts. We will have adult and youth sizes! Orders will arrive by Dec. 19th.

Ordering a sweatshirt can be your way of contributing to Living River for Giving Tuesday this holiday season.

LIVING RIVER SUMMER CAMP 2023

Dates	Drop Off / Pick Up	Camp	Rising Grade	Rate until 12/31/22	Rate 1/1/23 to 2/28/23	Rate 3/1/23 to 4/30/23	Rate after 5/1
June 11-16	3 pm Sun / noon Fri	High School Work & Mission Camp	9- college freshman	\$500	\$525	\$550	\$575
June 11-16	3 pm Sun / noon Fri	Middle School Night Owl & Mission Camp	6-8	\$500	\$525	\$550	\$575
June 18-22	5 pm Sun / noon Thurs	Elementary Camp	K-6	\$400	\$425	\$450	\$475
June 23-25	3 pm Fri / noon Sun	You & Me Camp	Pre-K to 6	Adult \$150 Kid \$100	Adult \$175 Kid \$125	Adult \$200 Kid \$150	Adult \$225 Kid \$200
June 26 - July 1	3 pm Mon / noon Sat	Creative Elementary Camp	K-5	\$500	\$525	\$550	\$575
June 26 - July 1	3 pm Mon / noon Sat	Creative Middle School Camp	6-8	\$500	\$525	\$550	\$575

LIVING RIVER SUMMER CAMP is the camping program for the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, Presbyterian Church (USA). Scholarship information is available at livingriver.org. All are welcome.

Notes about Camp Pricing and Sign-up

Next summers camp price increases as the year progresses. The sooner we know how many campers to expect in each session, the better we can plan. There will still be a limited number of first-come scholarships available from the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley for 1/2 the base price of camp.

Please be an advocate for Living River and encourage your child's friends to attend. We have the capacity for 95 campers per session and are working towards full capacity. We need your help!



Be a Summer Counselor or share the opportunity with a college-aged young adult.

One of last summer's counselors shared, "This past June was one of the best months of my life! All of these children mean so much to me. Being around them, in nature, and connected to God meant so much to me. Living River will always hold a special place in my heart." -Alison Jenkins

Visit our website, livingriver.org for more information.

Upcoming at Living River

Winter and Spring Work Days

On **Dec. 3rd (Dec. 10th rain makeup day) and March 4th (March 11th rain makeup day)** please join experienced Living River volunteers in lending many hands for land and facilities maintenance projects. Email rvmathews@livingriver.org to sign up. Indoor and outdoor projects will be available. Details will be posted on our website and emailed to volunteers a week before.

Living River Sunday

Have you heard church camp experiences described as "mountain-top" experiences? Often, the last small group discussions at church camp are about how campers and leaders will take what they learned from camp and apply it to their everyday life. The Transfiguration story of Jesus that we celebrate every year before Lent reflects a lot of these same aspects of camp. A few of Jesus' disciples go away and have a mountain-top experience where they see who Jesus is clearly, the fulfillment of the law and the hope of the prophets all embodied in simple human form. How do the disciples come down from that mountain-top experience? What does it mean for them and for us? The story even involves tents.

On Transfiguration Sunday, Feb. 19, 2023, we hope your church will celebrate Living River Sunday with other churches across the presbytery. Living River will provide a worship outline and resources to each church. Join us in exploring how camp ministry provides a new lens on the story of Transfiguration. What does this story still have to teach us about who Jesus is, and what does it mean for us in our everyday life? We hope your church will join us and other churches for a Living River Sunday!

Financial Health and How You Can Help

Why Talk about our Existing Mortgage?

Living River's mortgage sits at a little under \$162,000! Why would we so excitedly share the amount of our debt? Just four years ago, in 2018, the mortgage balance was \$1.1 million. What a testament to the goodness of Living River's mission and its potential that the camp and conference center has survived many valued lessons in camp ministry, a pandemic, and the challenges of property upkeep.

Living River is still young and is close to thriving in a new chapter of missional and programmatic growth. We are full of hope and gratitude to our donors and friends for believing God is present at and through Living River. Please join us in feeling encouraged by Living River's incredible journey and the hard work of its board and friends.

Become a Bedrock Sustaining Donor



Living River's Bedrock of Sustaining Donors give to cover operational costs so other revenue sources are freed to grow its ministry. Currently, Living River's annual giving covers just 20% of its operational costs. **We need your support!** Become a Bedrock Donor by giving a minimum of \$25 a month or \$300 annually, strengthening Living River's foundation! Donations can be made online or by mailing a check. Sustaining Donors will be recognized annually.

Executive Director's Corner

Gratitude is year-round, but Thanksgiving brings it to mind in a more time-specific way. Here is my list of people and things for which I am thankful in no particular order.

The staff of Living River- The addition of Assistant Director for Development, Rachel VanKirk Mathews, and Facilities Director, Brett Melton, has given Living River a team with which to plan and dream in ways that have not been possible. The strong support of our part-time and contract staff; Bookkeeper, Wendy Tucker; Weekend Host and Facilities Assistant, Greg Byrd; Cleaning Contractor, Brenda Grandison, and Facilities Assistant, Maslin Brown provide Living River with the behind-the-scenes support that allows us to host camps and retreats. As the person with the most service to Living River, Wendy provides historical context and a depth of knowledge of not just Living River's history, but an abundance of knowledge of non-profit rules and regulations.

The volunteers of Living River- Our **board members**; Tom Bryson, Allison Moore, Nick Reed, Steve Ashworth, Brian Massengale, Janet Ort, Mike Henderson, Jay Patton, Emily Roberts, Kent Howard, Sam Hamilton-Poore, Shirley Finley, Patrick Riley, Sue Westfall, JD Powell, Frank Sutherland, Laura Underhill, Debra Love, and Paul Dimick serve on committees, attend board meetings, advocate for Living River, help with camp and events, and provide Living River's necessary structure.

Our **hands-on volunteers** who cut the grass, and bush-hog roadways, certify counselors in CPR, provide health care, fill in potholes, clear trails, build structures, check sewer and water readings, lead and volunteer for summer camp, plant gardens, and take campers on canoe trips. Park Grimmer, Charlie Durham, Mike Henderson, Steve and Carolyn Ashworth, Cahaba River Society and Cahaba Riverkeeper organizations, Jody Gilchrist, Andy Spaulding, Grace Daniels, Robert Hay, Joe Genau, Laura Bannon, Shirley Finley, Lorino Hendricks, Lili Kane, Nick Reed, Emily Roberts, Paula Neighbors, Cathy Hoop, Jane Shipley, Jonathan Yarboro, and Pat Goodman.

The congregations and organizations that used Living River for Retreats in 2022; Alabama School of Fine Arts, Christ the King Lutheran, Boy Scout troops 90 and 28, PSL Youth, Bama Catholic, UKirk UA, AU, B'ham; Bibb County Extension Service, PSL Elementary, Soul Purpose, Southminster Encore, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Outreach Bible Project, Alpha Gamma Delta UAB, FPC Birmingham, UAB Honors, Community Baptist Alabaster, Circle K (Kiwaniis International), South Highland Father/Son Campout

Those **Bedrock Sustaining Donors** who recognize that Living River is a ministry, and just like congregational ministry needs a dependable base of monetary support. Those **donors** who have made donations to pay down Living River's mortgage. What began as a 1.1 million dollar line of credit in 2018, is now a mortgage of just under \$162,000. It is within sight for Living River to be completely debt free before we begin summer camp 2023.

Those **foundations and designated gifts** whose grants have made specific positions and projects possible. Independent Presbyterian Foundation's funding of a Development position, Southminster Presbyterian's Foundation's funding of recreational equipment, Shades Valley Presbyterian Foundation's funding of renovations at the Shades Valley Lodge, funds from the sale of Trinity Presbyterian Church through PSL which allow Living River to make our current mortgage payments. My family (George, Frank, Merrill, Ben, Emmie and Clara) who share a love of Living River and pitch-in whenever asked.

Our **Triune God** who has a purpose for Living River that continues to be revealed.



LIVING RIVER
A RETREAT ON THE CAHABA

2000 Living River Parkway
Montevallo, AL 35115

